

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----121198 241756Z /42

O 241735Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2359
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 01286

EXDIS
CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PDEV UK RH
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: COVER PAPER TO DRAFT PROPOSALS

BEGIN TEXT: RHODESIA: THE TRANSITION TO INDEPEN-
DENCE

INTRODUCTION

1. ON 1 SEPTEMBER 1977 THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, ACTING
IN FULL AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT,
PUBLISHED A DOCUMENT, RHODESIA: PROPOSALS FOR A SETTLE-
MENT (CMND 6919). ON THE SAME DAY, THE SECRETARY OF
STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, WHO WAS THEN
IN SALISBURY, MADE A STATEMENT ON THE ISSUE OF LAW AND
ORDER. THE PROPOSALS ENVISAGED THE TRANSFER OF POWER
FROM THE ADMINISTRATION OF MR SMITH AND THE RHODESIAN
FRONT TO A LEGAL GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHED UNDER THE
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AUTHORITY OF THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT AND AN ORDERLY AND
PEACEFUL TRANSITION TO INDEPENDENCE IN THE COURSE OF
1978, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:

- (1) FREE AND IMPARTIAL ELECTIONS ON THE BASIS OF
UNIVERSAL ADULT SUFFRAGE.
- (2) THE ESTABLISHMENT BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT OF
A TRANSITIONAL ADMINISTRATION UNDER A RESIDENT COMMIS-

SIONER WITH THE TASK OF CONDUCTING ELECTIONS FOR AN INDEPENDENT GOVERNMENT NOT LATER THAN SIX MONTHS FROM THE TRANSFER OF POWER.

(3) A UNITED NATIONS PRESENCE, INCLUDING A UNITED NATIONS FORCE, DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD.

(4) AN INDEPENDENCE CONSTITUTION PROVIDING FOR A DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED GOVERNMENT, THE PROTECTION OF INDIVIDUAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS, INCLUDING FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION, AND THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY.

(5) A DEVELOPMENT FUND, PREDICATED UPON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SETTLEMENT AS A WHOLE, TO REVIVE THE ECONOMY OF THE COUNTRY.

ALSO ON 1 SEPTEMBER THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF FIELD MARSHAL THE LORD CARVER AS RESIDENT COMMISSIONER (DESIGNATE) IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 11(A) OF CMND 6919.

2. THE PRINCIPLES DESCRIBED IN THE PRECEDING PARAGRAPH WERE SET OUT IN SOME DETAIL IN ANNEXES A AND B TO CMND 6919, ALTHOUGH THERE WERE SOME AREAS IN WHICH FURTHER ELABORATION WAS NEEDED, AND SOME AREAS IN WHICH CHANGES COULD BE INTRODUCED AS A RESULT OF FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH THE PARTIES. THE PROPOSALS AS A WHOLE WERE PRESENTED TO ALL THE PARTIES AS A FIRM FRAMEWORK AND CONFIDENTIAL

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BASIS FOR SUCH FURTHER DISCUSSION. THE GOVERNMENT EMPHASISED THAT ALL PARTS OF THE PROPOSALS WERE LINKED;

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2360
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 01286

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WHILE IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVERY ASPECT TO BE ACCEPT-
ABLE TO EVERYONE, THE PROPOSALS TAKEN AS A WHOLE REPRESENTED
IN THEIR VIEW A BALANCED AND FAIR PACKAGE. ON THAT BASIS, INDEED,
THE PROPOSALS WERE WIDELY WELCOMED AND RECEIVED AN ENCOURAGING
MEASURE OF SUPPORT THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

3. ONE PARTICULAR AREA IN WHICH ELABORATION WAS REQUIRED WAS THAT
OF LAW AND ORDER. THE STATEMENT ISSUED ON 1 SEPTEMBER WENT SOME
WAY TO MEET THIS REQUIREMENT, BUT SINCE THE PROPOSALS ENVISAGED
A UN PRESENCE, IT WAS NECESSARY FOR THE UN TO BE INVOLVED IN
FURTHER DETAILED DISCUSSIONS. PARAGRAPH 11(C) OF CMND 6919
ENVISAGED THE APPOINTMENT OF A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY
GENERAL FOR THIS PURPOSE. ACCORDINGLY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT
ON 27 SEPTEMBER REQUESTED A MEETING OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO
CONSIDER AUTHORISING THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO APPOINT
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SUCH A REPRESENTATIVE. ON 29 SEPTEMBER, FOLLOWING A SHORT
DEBATE, THE SECURITY COUNCIL, BY A MAJORITY OF 13 VOTES TO NONE,
WITH ONE MEMBER ABSTAINING AND ONE NOT PARTICIPATING, ADOPTED
SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO 415 (1977). THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL
SUBSEQUENTLY ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL
PREM CHAND AS HIS REPRESENTATIVE, IN PURSUANCE OF THAT RESOLUTION,
"TO ENTER INTO DISCUSSIONS, WITH THE BRITISH RESIDENT
COMMISSIONER DESIGNATE AND WITH ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNING THE
MILITARY AND ASSOCIATED ARRANGEMENTS THAT ARE CONSIDERED
NECESSARY TO EFFECT THE TRANSITION TO MAJORITY RULE IN SOUTHERN
RHODESIA".

4. IN THIS WAY, THE FOUNDATION WAS LAID FOR A PROCESS OF
CONSULTATION AND EXCHANGES OF VIEWS IN WHICH REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE BRITISH AND US GOVERNMENTS, OF THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL
AND OF ALL SIGNIFICANT CURRENTS OF

OPINION IN RHODESIA WERE INVOLVED, AND THE COURSE OF WHICH IS SET OUT LATER IN THIS PAPER. THAT PROCESS HAS, AS CMND 6919 ENVISAGED, HELPED TO IDENTIFY MANY RESPECTS IN WHICH THE ORIGINAL PROPOSALS CAN BE ELABORATED OR MODIFIED. THE BRITISH AND US GOVERNMENTS BELIEVE THAT THE TIME HAS NOW COME TO TAKE STOCK OF THE RESULTS, TO PUBLISH AN AMPLIFICATION OF THEIR PROPOSALS AND TO SAY WHAT VIEW THEY NOW TAKE OF THEIR STATUS. THESE ARE THE AIMS OF THE PRESENT PAPER. END TEST. BREWSTER

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